



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

56 West Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157
Phone 410---848---9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 27, 2016

City of Westminster to Expand Gigabit Internet Access to an Additional 2,700 Homes and Businesses

Westminster, MD – On June 13, 2016 the City of Westminster Mayor and Common Council selected SMC, Inc., a telecommunications, utility and government contracting firm located in Tracy's Landing, Maryland, to continue Phase 1 and Phase 2 construction of the Westminster Fiber Network (WFN). When construction of these phases is completed in 2017, an additional 2,700 homes and businesses, covering most of the western portion of the City, will have access to affordable gigabit Internet services, powered by Ting.

The City of Westminster celebrated the lighting of the WFN in June of 2015, making it the first planned community---wide gigabit fiber network in the Mid---Atlantic region. This expansion of the WFN is an important milestone and demonstrates the City's continued commitment to revolutionize Internet access, bring local jobs, and drive innovation that will enable the community to thrive.

The WFN is already delivering value to the community. Businesses like Westminster based, Open Professional Group, are improving their bottom line by saving money on their monthly Internet bills and increasing productivity with gigabit Internet speeds. Ting is set to open the Ting Makerspace, located in Downtown Westminster, to the public in the fall of 2016. Finally, the Mid---Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory, Inc. (MAGIC), headquartered in Westminster, launched to foster technology culture, recruit and develop technology entrepreneurs, and assist tech start---ups deploying innovative solutions.

Construction of Phase 1 is set to begin in July 2016. City of Westminster property owners are encouraged to sign a Fiber Drop Access Agreement to receive a free fiber optic connection to the network. This connection is required to be able to take advantage of the network and purchase gigabit Internet services now and in the future. The Fiber Drop Access Agreement for residents and business owners can be accessed by visiting: <https://ting.com/internet/accessagreement>

In an effort to answer questions residents and business owners have about the City of Westminster's exciting new gigabit Internet service option, Ting is hosting four

Community Open Houses at their Downtown Westminster Office, located at 15 E. Main Street, Suite 100. These Community Open Houses will be held from 5---7pm on Tuesday, June 28, Wednesday, July 13, Tuesday, July 26, and Tuesday, August, 30. For more information about attending a Community Open House, please reach out to Valerie Giovagnoni, Ting's Westminster City Manager at Valerie@ting.com.

For general information about the WFN please visit:
www.westminstermd.gov/419/Westminster---Fiber---Network.

#

The City of Westminster is building the Westminster Fiber Network, the first community wide gigabit fiber network in the Mid---Atlantic region. For additional information, please contact Jason Stambaugh at (410) 848---9029 or jstambaugh@westgov.com.